

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 were examined in the Office Action mailed Jun 30, 2006.

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7-12 recite patentable subject matter, and would be allowable if amended into independent form. In order to advance this case to allowance, the applicants have amended claim 7 into independent form, and introduced conforming amendments to claims 8-12 to similarly place these claims into allowable condition.

Abstract Objection: The Applicants have amended the Abstract to address the pending objection to the form of the original Abstract. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Abstract objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection: Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion to address the pending claim objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objection is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Issue: The document referred to at the top of Specification page 2 is noted as not considered. The Applicants are concurrently filing an Information Disclosure Statement with a copy of the pertinent portions of this document, with side bar notations, as well as an English translation thereof.

Section 112 Rejections: Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite due to antecedent basis, grammar and clarity issues. In the course of amending claims 7-12 into allowable form, the Applicants have addressed each of the issues identified by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 112, second paragraph, rejections is respectfully requested.

Section 102(b) Rejections: Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,454,178 B1 to Fusco, *et al.* ("Fusco"). The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections based on Fusco have been rendered moot by the foregoing amendments.

**CONCLUSION**

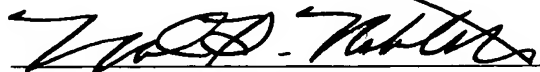
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 7-12 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims, is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.53137US).

Respectfully submitted,

October 30, 2006

  
Jeffrey D. Sanok, Registration No. 32,169  
Mark H. Neblett, Registration No. 42,028

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300, Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844